

Message Text

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ACTION ARA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-15 SP-02 NSCE-00 SIG-01 MMO-01
PM-05 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 USIE-00 DODE-00 L-03
PA-01 A-01 CG-00 DOTE-00 OMB-01 AID-05 TRSE-00
SNM-05 DEAE-00 CAB-02 COME-00 EB-08 FAA-00 OES-07
DLOS-09 OPIC-03 IGA-02 SSO-00 INRE-00 /096 W
-----110603 212240Z /73

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FM AMEMBASSY NASSAU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 473

S E C R E T NASSAU 0352

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AMGT, PEPR, BF

SUBJ: US GOALS AND OBJECTIVES - BAHAMAS SUMMARY

REFS: A. STATE 034007; B. STATE 037394; C. STATE 042729;
AND D. STATE 186518 (77)

I. A. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO ASSIST IN ESTABLISHING A
CLOSE LIAISON BETWEEN THE NEWLY CREATED BAHAMIAN DEFENSE FORCE
AND OUR OWN COAST GUARD AND LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.
B. FACILITIES NEGOTIATION WILL BE RESUMED IN MARCH. THESE
TALKS SHOULD BE A USEFUL FIRST STEP IN ASCERTAINING THE
DIFFERENCES BETWEEN OUR LATEST QUID OFFER (DEC. 1975) AND
CURRENT BAHAMIAN EXPECTATIONS. WE WOULD HOPE THAT DOD HAS
ALREADY ASSESSED THE BASES' VALUE AND THAT THIS ASSESSMENT
WILL FORM THE BASIS OF OUR NEGOTIATING POSITION. AN OBSTACLE
TO A SUCCESSFUL CONCLUSION OF THE TALKS REMAINS, IN OUR VIEW,
IS A BAHAMIAN DESIRE TO RECEIVE CONCESSIONAL BILATERAL ASSIST-
ANCE IN ADDITION TO BASE RENTAL. THIS PROBLEM SHOULD BECOME
CLARIFIED UPON THE CONCLUSION OF BILATERAL TALKS ON ECONOMIC
ASSISTANCE ALSO SCHEDULED FOR THIS SPRING.

II. A. THE GCOB SHOWS NO SIGN OF LESSENING ITS TOTAL COOP-
ERATION IN THE FIELD OF NARCOTICS INTERDICTION, ALTHOUGH MEANS
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TO IMPROVE PROCEDURAL METHODS WILL BE THE SUBJECT OF CONTINUED
DISCUSSION BETWEEN THE EMBASSY AND THE MINEXAFF. WE ARE SAT-
ISFIED THAT PRESENT PROCEDURES WITH REGARD TO COOPERATION IN
CONTROL OF TAX EVASION ARE WORKABLE AND GENERALLY SATISFACTORY
TO ALL PARTIES CONCERNED.

III. A. WE CONTINUE TO BELIEVE THAT GCOB REQUESTS FOR IN-
CREASED AIR ROUTES TO AND FROM THE US ARE VALID AND WILL

CONTINUE TO PRESS FOR THE DEPT'S SUPPORT, HOWEVER LIMITED,
BEFORE THE CAB.

B. THE GCOB HAS MADE ABUNDANTLY CLEAR THAT IT REFUSES TO
DISCUSS FISHING ZONES INDEPENDENTLY FROM MARITIME BOUNDARIES
AND THAT ONLY WHEN IT HAS ISSUED CALLS FOR TENDERS ON WHAT
IT CONSIDERS ITS SHARE OF THE BLAKE PLATEAU WILL IT BE READY
TO TALK. WE FEEL THAT TO PRESS FOR TALKS UNDER THE CIRCUM-
STANCES WOULD BE COUNTERPRODUCTIVE AND MIGHT ADVERSELY AFFECT
OTHER GOALS INCLUDING A SUCCESSFUL RESOLUTION OF THE
FACILITIES NEGOTIATIONS.

C. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE ITS ASSISTANCE TO US FIRMS SEEKING
CONTRACTS IN THE BAHAMAS.

D. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO PROMOTE TRADE AND INVEST-
MENT OPPORTUNITIES. WE WISH TO NOTE, HOWEVER, THAT OPIC
PROGRAMS ARE NOT NOW AND HAVE NEVER BEEN OPERABLE IN THE BAHAMAS.

IV. A. ALTHOUGH TO OUR KNOWLEDGE THERE EXIST RELATIVELY
FEW SOURCES OF NON-CONCESSIONAL ASSISTANCE WHICH WOULD IN-
TEREST GCOB, WE HAVE RECENTLY HAD SUCCESS IN SECURING THE
SERVICES OF THE INT. EX SERVICE CORP FOR A MAJOR PROJECT WITH
THE MINISTRY OF WORKS AND WILL CONTINUE TO SEEK OUT OTHER MEANS
TO BE OF ASSISTANCE.

B. WE WILL CONTINUE TO ENCOURAGE THESE GOALS IN OUR ONGOING
CONVERSATIONS WITH GCOB OFFICIALS AT THE HIGHEST LEVELS.

C. AND D. EMBASSY WILL POINT OUT TO GCOB OFFICIALS, AS
APPROPRIATE, ADVANTAGES TO BE DERIVED FROM OAS MEMBERSHIP
AS WELL AS INCREASED INTERCHANGES WITH HISPANOLA.

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V. A. EMBASSY WILL CONTINUE TO STRENGTHEN BILATERAL
COMMUNICATION AND LINKAGES BY AN IMAGINATIVE USE OF OUR
LIMITED RESOURCES.
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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: REPORTS, POLICIES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 21 feb 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 20 Mar 2014
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978NASSAU00352
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780078-0986
Format: TEL
From: NASSAU
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780233/aaaabblg.tel
Line Count: 98
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 91fb60d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION ARA
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: 78 STATE 34007, 78 STATE 37394, 78 STATE 42729
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 06 jul 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3536414
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: US GOALS AND OBJECTIVES - BAHAMAS SUMMARY
TAGS: AMGT, PEPR, PGOV, BF
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odbc://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/91fb60d3-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014